

Serial No.: 10/615,431  
Reply to Office action of December 14, 2006

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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 10/615,431  
Applicant: Mark E. Dausch et al.  
Filed: July 7, 2003  
Title: KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AND METHODS FOR CRUDE OIL REFINING  
Art Unit : 1743  
Confirmation No.: 7472  
Examiner: Brian J. Sines  
Docket No.: 135541-1  
Customer No.: 006147

REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION  
(In compliance with 37 CFR § 1.111)

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed on December 14, 2006, please consider the following amendments and remarks.

**Listing of the Claims** begins on page 3 of this Reply.

**Remarks** begin on page 6 of this Reply.